

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1069

By Mumpower

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend owners, managers, and the employees of K-VA-T's Food City upon receiving the *Supermarket News's* Community Service Award for 2008.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable businesses which have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable company whose owners, managers, and employees evince the greatest integrity and probity in all their chosen endeavors is K-VA-T's Food City, which recently received the *Supermarket News's* Community Service Award for 2008; and

WHEREAS, this prestigious award honors those companies that seek to form stronger ties with the communities they serve; and

WHEREAS, understanding that strong communities attract people and people shop for groceries, Food City associates are dedicated to supporting the community's needs, including involvement with the schools, universities, churches, civic organizations, hospitals, and local agencies; and

WHEREAS, under the astute leadership of President and Chief Executive Officer Steve Smith, K-VA-T operates ninety-five Food City stores in western Virginia and the eastern parts of Tennessee and Kentucky; throughout its history the company has carefully built community ties that serve to keep the regional chain strong; and

WHEREAS, Claude P. Varney, who faithfully served K-VA-T until his death in 1994, was so committed to community involvement that the company named its own community service awards program after him; created in 2002, the Claude P. Varney Volunteer Recognition Program recognizes store associates for their charitable efforts within the community; and

WHEREAS, every January, company officials present the Claude Varney Humanitarian Awards to associates who have lent their talents to their community, honoring them with certificates of appreciation; officials dispense about \$10,000 in cash awards, which are then donated to charities, to those employees who have made the most significant contributions to their communities; and

WHEREAS, company executives are notorious for generating much enthusiasm in the process of raising money for a variety of causes; and

WHEREAS, during the past five years, K-VA-T has garnered much funding for its "Race Against Hunger" drive; and

WHEREAS, K-VA-T also participates in a variety of other fundraisers and civic-minded causes, including the Miss Food City pageant, presented by the Twin City Woman's Club of Bristol; the Apples for the Students program, the Upromise college tuition savings plan; and the Santa Train; and

WHEREAS, the dedicated public servants of K-VA-T have committed \$850,000 to schools this year alone and a total of more than \$10 million through the Apples for Students program; and

WHEREAS, the company has also shown a commitment to the farming community by embarking on an initiative to encourage and support local farmers; this initiative benefits customers who desire the quality of locally grown produce and helps a lot of the struggling tobacco farmers channel their energies into a more lucrative crop; and

WHEREAS, the owners and employees of K-VA-T's Food City are wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and they should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby commend President and Chief Executive Officer Steve Smith and the outstanding employees of K-VA-T's Food City for their honorable and astute service to the good people of Tennessee, even as we congratulate them upon receiving the *Supermarket News's* Community Service Award for 2008.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.